

**REMARKS**

The amendments are considered to place the claims in better condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

**FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP**

March 16, 2004  
Date

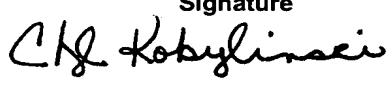
  
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Scott A. McCollister, Reg. No. 33,961  
Ann M. Skerry, Reg. No. 45,655  
1100 Superior Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579  
(216) 861-5582

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being

- deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, addressed to: MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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